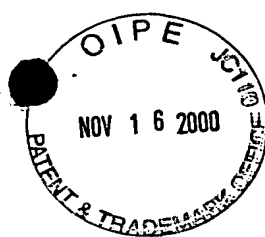


Docket No.: 1015-008



4
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of Bryan D. Powell et al. :
Serial No. 09/471,634 : Group Art Unit:
Filed: December 24, 1999 : Examiner:
For: PROGRAMMER

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98 Applicants submit herewith patents, publications, or other information of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose. The attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the attached form PTO-1449. It is respectfully requested that the references be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and that the references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently with the patent application, which is within three months of the U.S. filing date, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits. No certification or fee is required.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists.

The subject application is believed patentable over any of the references listed on the attached form.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mikio Ishimaru".

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